Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors April 9th, 2014

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The April Board of Directors meeting of the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District was called to order by President Dunn at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was held in the Board Room of Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District NO. 3.

Directors Present

Kent Dunn, President, Seward County Representative
Kirk Heger, Vice President, Stevens County Representative
Mike O'Brate, Treasurer, Gray County Representative
Mike McNiece, Board Secretary, Industrial Representative
Clay Scott, Grant County Representative
Hal Scheuerman, Kearny County Representative
Ross Geubelle, Hamilton County Representative
Douglass Fox, Meade County Representative
Steve Stone, Finney County Representative
Wayne Breeding, Morton County Representative
Seth Nelson, Stanton County Representative
Jeff Reinert, Ford County Representative
Bret Rooney, Haskell County Representative

Directors Absent with Notice

Randy Hayzlett, Surface Water Representative Alan Schweitzer, Municipal Representative

District Staff Present

Mark Rude, Executive Director Jason Norquest, Assistant Manager Patty Stapleton, Office Administrator Chris Law, Director, Field Services Trevor Ahring, Engineer Brandi Sneath, Office Assistant

Others in Attendance

Mike Meyer, Water Commissioner, Division of Water Resources, Garden City, KS Steve Hines.

APPROVE AGENDA

President Dunn asked for consideration of the meeting Agenda. Executive Director, Mark Rude suggested an addition, under Presidents Report, Item F MYFA Policy. After some discussion, Wayne Breeding made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mike O'Brate seconded. The motion was approved with all in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES & MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

President Dunn drew the attention of the Board to consider the March 12thth, 2014 draft minutes. Kirk Heger made a motion to approve the March 12th, 2014 Board Meeting minutes. Ross Geubelle seconded the motion. The motion was approved with all in favor.

President Dunn next drew the attention of the Board to review the March, 2014 financial report documents. Clay Scott made a motion as follows: Approve the financial reports and payments for the month of March, as presented at this meeting, and to submit them for the annual audit. Hal Scheuerman seconded the motion. The motion was approved with all in favor.

President Dunn signed and submitted the financial documents.

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President's Report, President Kent Dunn

Water Commissioner's Report, Commissioner Mike Meyer

Mike Meyer stated the division is staying busy attending meetings along with many change requests.

An impairment complaint was submitted in Southwest Gray County. DWR has sent notice for further details and may discuss later.

Mike mentioned that Topeka DWR is on track for the move to new office space in Manhattan.

Board Committee Assignments, Draft

Mark Rude turned the Boards attention to the Committee Assignments that were in the April board book. Few changes were made and president Dunn set the members. Mark noted the Arkansas River Committee name was changed to Renewable Supplies Committee to better suit the expected outcome of the committee.

Water Visioning in Manhattan: Water Authority, Ag Board and Econ Advisors, April 11th

Mark handed out a draft agenda for the Water Visioning work session, which will be held on April 11th, 2014 at the Farm Bureau Building in Manhattan, KS.

Keep the Tap Flowing: A new "Community Discussion Guide"

A KSU Community discussion guide titled "Keep the Tap Flowing" was reviewed by staff and board. The brochure does not mention GMD's or the GMD Act, and appears to be so general as to be misleading without added information or clarification. The guide is intended for facilitated community discussions in the Ogallala region.

NWRA Federal Issues Conference in Washington D.C.

Mark Rude and Dave Brenn attended the NWRA Federal Issues Conference in Washington D.C. A fee of \$12,500 would hold a membership with NWRA. The conference had good speakers and facilitated congressional and agency contacts throughout the session and facilitated issue briefings.

MYFA Policy

Mark reminded the board of past conversation on MYFA concerns; stating that staff can review first and then if a possible impairment could be in the future take to the GMD3 Board of Directors. After much discussion Policy and Legal will review with in the month and bring to the table in the May meeting.

Old Business

There was no old business to bring to the table.

New Business

Paying expenses for Mark to attend the NWRA Conference in Washington D.C. was brought to the table. Notice of this meeting was given to Mark after the March meeting therefore was not brought up for discussion at that time. Some discussion occurred. Clay Scott moved to approve paying the travel expenses for Mark Rude attending the conference in Washington D.C. Mike McNiece seconded. Motion passed with all in favor.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports to announce.

Executive Director Report, Mark Rude

DWR Haskell County Fact Finder Referee Report (legal staff issue)

April 30th is the date for hearing on the Haskell County Impairment issue. A jury trial is expected to occur in October. The DWR report provides mainly physical facts or well and aquifer performance.

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Summer Flowmeter Program

Mark informed the directors of the summer flowmeter program that occurs with the help of temporary labor paid by the visit. It has been budgeted for 2014 to hire as before, but may be altered to include one seasonal full time employee. Approximately 2,300 irrigation wells will be visited. Hal Scheuerman moved to approve the summer flowmeter program as budgeted for 2014. Mike O'Brate seconded. Motion passed with all in favor.

Department of Commerce, Rural Opportunities Conference, Dodge City, April 9 & 10th

Registration for the Department of Commerce, Rural Opportunities Conference has officially closed. However, since the meeting is in Dodge City might stop by on the way to Manhattan.

Update on Federal Grants & Conservation Assistance to GMD3

Mark reviewed the grants that have been or will be submitted. A meeting will be held on April 21st, 2014 with the US Army Corps of Engineers to review Aqueduct Study Tool

There are numerous Reclamation Grants being worked on.

- Water Supply Options study grant is completed.
- System Optimization Review is ongoing.
- Basin Plan of Study under development
- Water Re-Use Scoping Project, conceptual.

USDA new farm bill has eliminated AWEP. After Mark's review of the revised contract, which added two requirements for each enrollee: 1) Develop a farm conservation plan and 2) Producers justify each year how the resources have been improved under the program? Mark requested to have both new additions removed from the contract for consistency in this final year of the GMD3 AWEP. The new regional collaborative program that replaced and consolidated programs will be taken to the state wide Technical Committee and finalized in October.

State Ag Department still has a Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, and Water TAP. GMD3 still participates in the CREP but not Water TAP.

Monthly Western Water Conservation Projects Fund Business

Mark Rude drew the attention of the board to the financial documents of the Western Water Conservation Projects Fund and activity of the advisory committee. After some discussion of the Board, Wayne Breeding moved to accept the March financial report and payments as presented and submit them for annual audit. Bret Rooney seconded. Motion passed with all in favor.

Stateline Groundwater Gaging Update & Haskell County Letter

Drilling on the Stateline for groundwater gaging has been completed and ready to be equipped. Mark noted that the GMD3 will be paying the bill and submit for reimbursement from the Arkansas River Litigation Funds as discussed in prior board meetings.

Consider Approval of \$35,000 for Phase One, West Consultants

Mark Rude reviewed the two phase Arkansas River Basin Study that was submitted for board approval. The study is to assess the quality and quantity of water in the Arkansas River from the headwaters in Colorado to the east line of GMD3. West Consultants submitted a suggested approach for two phase project. The first phase of the project will better define the overall scope and approach of the second phase. The first phase is an estimated cost of \$35,000. The second phase with an estimated cost of \$400,000 was likely estimated higher than needed due to uncertainties at the time

After some discussion Clay Scott moved to approve the project and submitting the application to Kansas Water Office for their approval under the grant agreement. Doug Fox seconded. Motion passed with all in favor.

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Board Member Report

Clay Scott noted his support for the project that was previously discussed stating the quality and quantity of water is important to the district.

Public Forum

Steve Hines asked what the time frame would be to send the Arkansas River Basin Study application to Kansas Water Office. Mark Rude stated it would be to Kansas Water Office right away.

ADJOURNMENT

Ross Geubelle made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seth Nelson seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 1140 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
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Mike McNiece

GMD3 Board Secretary